(d) and (e) The Committee had observed that in view of the importance of the case, Central Bureau of Investigation should pursue the matter vigorously and bring the investigations to an early conclusion. The Committee also hoped that it would be kept apprised of the progress made in the investigation in the case in the coming days. Accordingly, Ministry of Home Affairs are monitoring the progress of the case and the Committee is being kept apprised of the progress of investigation on a regular basis.

National Handicapped Welfare Fund

961. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up National Handicapped Welfare Fund for creating services etc. for the handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the date of its setting up;

(c) whether the said fund has not been utilized properly for the last fourteen years; and

(d) the amount that is available for the purpose along with the total donation received, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Handicapped Welfare Fund was created on 11.8.83 to fulfil the following objectives:

(i) To promote voluntary sector for creating services for the handicapped for prevention, early detection of disabilities, education, training, physical and economic rehabilitation of disabled persons.

(ii) To do all other things that are incidental and conducive to the above objective.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The scheme to be funded out of National Handicapped Welfare Fund could not be finanlised. As such, no funds could be utilised.

Naxalite Problem

962. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :
SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the naxal activities in the State of Andhra Pradesh are increasing day by day with the result a number of innocent people have fallen victims of their activities;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed and the damages caused to property and Government installations and other infrastructure during the last one year;

(c) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide two more battalions of Central Reserve Police Force for Andhra Pradesh to combat the Naxal activities in the State;

(d) if so, the total number of battalions of CRPF provided to the State at present and whether the demands of the State Government have been fully met in this regard;

(e) whether the Naxal activities are also increasing in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Orissa; and

(f) if so, whether the Union Government have suggested to these States to have a common force to check the naxalite activities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) As per available information, in Andhra Pradesh naxalite violence this yoar is less compared to the corresponding period of last year. However, the incidents are on the higher side when compared to the preceding half year.

(b) (i) The available information regarding the number of persons killed in the naxalite violence are as under:—

Year	No. of Persons killed
1996 (July to December)	105
1997 (Jan. to June)	115